Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 201059Z MAR 75 FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1102 INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PINS, UR, US

SUBJ: TRAVEL CONTROLS: RETALIATION

REF: LENINGRAD 1227

- 1. CONGEN CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE REFUSALS OF OUR VERY INFREQUENT REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO STANDING SOVIET TRAVEL CONTROLS. LATEST INSTANCE CONCERNS TURN-DOWN OF REQUEST TO TRAVEL TO PSKOV BY OFFICIAL CAR FOR PURPOSE OF OFFICIAL VISIT AND CALLS THERE BY CONSUL GENERAL AND DPO.
- 2. WE FIND THIS MOST IRRITATING SINCE MRS. BERNICE BEHRENS, DIRECTOR OF SAN FRANCISCO RECEPTION CENTER, ADVISED CONGEN RECENTLY THAT SOVCONGEN SAN FRANCISCO HAD BEEN GRANTED FIFTEEN EXCEPTIONS FOR TRAVEL INTO NORMALLY CLOSED AREAS BETWEEN JULY 1, 1974 AND JANUARY 20, 1975.
- 3. OUR INTEREST IS CLEARLY IN EASING TRAVEL CONTROLS RECIPROCALLY; HOWEVER, THE TIME HAS COME TO RETALIATE. CONGEN ACCORDINGLY REQUESTS FOLLOWING ACTION:

A. REFUSE TO GRANT EXCEPTIONS TO SOVCONGEN SAN FRANCISCO, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, SPECIFICALLY INFORMING CONSUL GNERAL ZINCHUK THAT REASONS FOR TURN-CONFIDENTIAL

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DOWNS IS RETALIATION FOR TREATMENT OF CONGEN LENINGRAD

PLEASE INFORM US BY CABLE WHEN EACH REFUSAL MADE IN
ORDER THAT WE MAY INFORM DIPLOMATIC AGENCY HERE THAT
WE ARE RETALIATING UNTIL SUCH TIMES AS THEY BECOME
MORE FORTHCOMING. (FYI CONGEN PLANS ASK FOR PERMISSION TO FLY TO
MURMANSK IN APRIL) CONGEN APPRECIATES DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES
AND PRESSURES TO GRANT EXCEPTIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO, BUT THIS
IS BEST WAY WE HAVE TO MAKE OUR POINT AND ACHIEVE SOME RELAXATION
OF RESTRICTIONS HERE. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, ZINCHUK AND COMPANY WILL
ALWAYS ENJOY BETTER SITUATION WITH EXCEPTIONS DUE TO WELL-KNOWN
DIFFERENCES IN SYSTEMS.

B. PLEASE UPDATE INFORMATION ON SOVCONGEN'S RECEIPT OF TRAVEL EXCEPTIONS AND ADVISE CONGEN LENINGRAD WHETHER SOVCONGEN RECEIVED ANY REFUSALS OF THEIR REQUESTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE GRANTED.

C. AT DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION, AND AFTER CERTAIN
PERIOD OF REFUSING SOVCONGEN'S REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS,
SUBJECT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED WITH SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON.
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